

Worksession

Agenda Item #	8
Meeting Date	October 17, 2005
Prepared By	Chief Creamer
Approved By	Barbara B. Matthews

Discussion Item	Report From Chief of Police Regarding Plans For Beginning of Daylight Savings Time (DST) and Perceptions of Crime in the OTRA/PEN Neighborhoods.
Background	<p>The residential streets adjacent to the Takoma Metro station (known as the OTRA and PEN neighborhoods) are widely used by pedestrians traveling to and from the Metro station, especially during the morning and evening commute times. This area has not been immune to crime, specifically as it relates to street crime in the form of robbery. The community perception has been that robbery increases in this area with the onset of Daylight Savings Time (DST). As a result, the fear of crime by people who live and/or walk through this area is heightened.</p> <p>Although crime data does not suggest this perception is accurate, the fear associated with the perception is recognized as being quite real. In an effort to address this concern, the Police Department will launch a campaign that involves increased police presence, as well as distribution of educational material designed for the public. The campaign will commence on October 31, 2005 and continue for several weeks thereafter. During evening hours, uniformed police officers will patrol the neighborhoods on bike/foot/marked patrol vehicle, engaging members of the community and distributing personal safety literature. In addition to the regularly scheduled working beat officer, the department will deploy officers on an overtime basis to increase uniformed presence in this area.</p>
Policy	The City is committed to ensuring the safety of its residents.
Fiscal Impact	Estimated cost of \$600 for employee overtime
Attachments	None
Recommendation	N/A
Special Consideration	None